

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 1-27. Claims 1-27 were rejected by the Examiner. Claims 1, 3, 10 and 27 have been amended by this response. Claim 26 has been canceled by this response.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Particularly, claim 1 recited a CPU and a microprocessor. By this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to delete the limitation of a microprocessor. Additionally, claim 27 recited that the protocol includes a command filed; [EXT intentionally omitted]. By this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claim 27 to correct the typographical error and deleted "[EXT intentionally omitted]". Furthermore, the Examiner requested that acronyms such as CPU, PSP and IOCB be spelled out in the claims to avoid being vague and indefinite. By this Amendment, the Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 10 and 27 to spell out acronyms. Claim 27 has been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-25 and 27 should be allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

By this Amendment, the Applicant has amended several portions of the specification and drawings to correct inadvertent typographical errors so as to avoid later confusion. The Applicant submits that these grammatical corrections add no new matter. For example, the reference numerals in Figs. 6a, 6b and 7 have been amended to properly reflect the reference numerals used in the detailed description to reference Figs. 6a, 6b and 7.

Additionally, the Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Stoner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,052,383) in view of Barall (U.S. Patent No. 4,860,006). The Applicant has canceled claim 26, which renders this rejection moot.

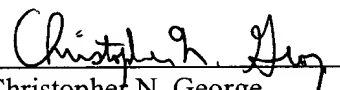
CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his work in examining the application and the prior art. If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of MHM, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figures 6a, 6b, and 7 have been amended to correct numbering of items in the figures (e.g., 400 and 500 series rather than 100 and 200 series). Corrected drawings have been submitted with this Amendment so that the reference numbers in Figs. 6a, 6b, and 7 match the numbers used in the Detailed Description.